



ARMY ACQUISITION REFORM



Issue 83

16 July 1998

NRDEC Supports Troops in Bosnia

By implementing and practicing AR initiatives, the U.S. Army Soldier Systems Command's (SSCOM) Natick Research, Development and Engineering Center (NRDEC) was able to expedite the procurement, manufacture, and delivery of critical life saving items for use by our troops in Bosnia. NRDEC groups, *teaming* with other organizations, received *verbal requests* for support from USAREUR and the Office of Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations. To meet these crucial requirements, the teams accepted *risks* by initiating concurrent actions in lieu of the business-as-usual process of sequential events. In addition, the procurements consisted of as many commercial and modified commercial items as possible. By teaming with industry, the groups formed were able to meet the one common goal of supporting the soldiers.

The teams *awarded contracts* to manufacture 350 Ranger Body Armor (RBA) vests and 180 Body Armor Sets, Individual Countermine (BASIC) within *three days* of the request and *delivered* all items to U.S. Army Europe (USAREUR)/Bosnia within *45 days*. Total mission response to the varied ballistic hazards present there required the expeditious delivery of several different armor items to the field. Totaling \$2.8M in protective materiel in direct support of "Task Force Eagle", these deliveries included RBA vests, BASIC, Ballistic Protective Combat Boots, Interim Small Arms Protective Overvest, and the Concealable Sniper Vest. Waterproof (Moisture Vapor Permeable) Socks were also provided for cold-wet environment protection.

The points of contact for this article are Ms. Karen Brown or Ms. Deirdre Townes, U.S. Army SSCOM, DSN 256-5445/5358, E-mail:

kbrown@natick-emh2.army.mil/dtownes@natick-emh2.army.mil